

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

THE NEW
DOMINION OF CANADA;

ITS PRESENT POSITION & FUTURE PROSPECTS

CONSIDERED IN THEIR

MATERIAL, POLITICAL, EDUCATIONAL, MORAL
AND RELIGIOUS ASPECTS.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION."

BY

THE REV. ROBERT WALLACE,
WEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO, ONT.

TORONTO:
GLOBE PRINTING COMPANY, 26 & 28 KING STREET EAST.
1868.

LP
F501R 1868 W193

July 1912

13.00

Mont. Bk. Auct Sale 30/33

4/15/12

THE NEW DOMINION OF CANADA.

THE words which we have chosen as a motto, are illustrated by the history of the world. The Israelites were distinguished, in ancient times, beyond what we might expect from their number, wealth or power, because of their religious and moral character. For this they were respected by Cyrus, and Alexander, and other distinguished conquerors and rulers of antiquity.

And what has exalted Britain to her high place among the nations but her reverence for the Word of God; her respect for that righteousness which exalteth a nation; founding her laws upon His Word, and honoring him as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

The inscription on the Royal Exchange, London—"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof"—is emblematic of Britain's acknowledgment of her dependence on Him for her material prosperity, and her desire to honor Him in her national capacity. Jehovah said of old, "Them that honor me, I will honor," and He has fulfilled that promise to the empire with which we have the privilege to be identified.

Our beloved Queen, the best that ever sat on the British throne, sways her benign sceptre over more than two hundred millions of the human race; over an empire that controls a larger portion of wealth and commerce than any other land. Three hundred years ago, Spain

July/1912

13.00

Mont. Bk. Auct Sale 28/33

4157/20

held the first place among the nations, and claimed the dominion over nearly half the globe, receiving into her coffers most of the gold and silver from both East and West.

But she trampled on the rights of conscience, and thus despised the law of the Lord. She sought by fire, and sword, and halter, to compel mankind to submit to her dogmas, and to the most cruel, unrelenting despotism. She was resisted by a brave people, who had scarcely a tithe of her resources, living amid the cold, damp swamps on the border of the North Sea; and after about eighty years of unparalleled struggles, sacrifice and suffering, they broke the power of Spain, and secured for themselves and their descendants the heaven-given right of liberty of conscience—the right of every man to worship his Creator according to his own conviction, guided only by God's revealed will.

Spain never recovered from her effort to put down civil and religious liberty. Trampling upon that righteousness which exalteth a nation, she fell from the position of the first nation of the world to that of a fifth-rate nation, and lost her power, wealth and influence. Thus signally has God fulfilled in her his threatening,—“They that despise me” (or trample on the principles of divine revelation) “shall be lightly esteemed.”

In like manner, France has never held the same relative position for wealth or commercial enterprise since the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which drove out of the kingdom about eight hundred thousand of her best citizens—the life-blood of the nation. They not only carried away much money, but what was of more

consequence, their arts, manufactures, and industry, by which they enriched their country and themselves. Many of these French emigrants settled in England, and the silk factories of Spitalfields, and many other useful and elegant branches of business, were established by them. Thus while France was injured by her unwise refusal of liberty of conscience to her people, Britain's generosity, in receiving and protecting the refugees, was the means of greatly increasing her wealth and power.

Let us now apply this principle to our own beloved country—the New Dominion of Canada. *First*, let us consider her material position and resources:—The four Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, have been united in one Confederation, under the title of the Dominion of Canada, (which formally commenced 1st July, 1867,) with an area of nearly four hundred thousand square miles, or about four and a half times as large as Great Britain.

In 1861 the population of these united Provinces was over two and a quarter millions, and if the other Provinces were united with the Confederation, it would now number about four millions.

I trust that our good friends of Nova Scotia will soon see the desirableness of maintaining the Confederation, in which we have been so happily united as common branches of the good old British Empire.

This is certainly the only way in which we can secure our own independence or maintain British Connection. If we remain apart, we are almost sure to be absorbed by our grasping neighbors. Union is strength. Let us remember the fable of the bundle of sticks which the dying father directed his sons to try to break, and learn that united we are safe, but divided we fall.

Were the Confederation of all the British Provinces effected, we would have a Dominion on this continent second only to the United States, with a territory and resources sufficient for a vast population—a territory of nearly three millions of square miles, (2,897,560). Soon I trust the whole of British America will be united under the protection of that glorious old “flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze.”

The Dominion of Canada is a vast country, with noble rivers, broad lakes, a fertile soil, valuable and almost inexhaustible mines and forests, enjoying a largely increasing commerce and population, and a GLO-RIOUS FUTURE, if its rising generation receive a proper religious, social and intellectual training, and its public affairs be honestly and wisely administered.

By means of the St. Lawrence and its tributary lakes and rivers, Canada enjoys an inland navigation of about two thousand miles (2,385) from the ocean. “Taking into account its beauty,” says Buckingham, “as well as its length, the size of its lakes, the magnificence of its cataracts and rapids, the gigantic scale of its opening into the ocean, the St. Lawrence is, beyond all question, the most magnificent river in the world.” Canada can also point to the river Ottawa, second only to the St. Lawrence, extending a thousand miles to its head-waters, and draining a region capable of sustaining a population of several millions; and to the St. John, (N. B.) both famed for the lumbering carried on along their borders. And we hope, ere long, the Dominion will own the mighty Saskatchewan and the noble Frazer rivers, watering a vast region of virgin soil, inviting the hardy settler, and promising comfortable homes to a

countless multitude of immigrants from Britain and other lands.

I fear not to affirm that, with the exception of India, which is not properly a colony, the Dominion of Canada is the noblest of all the British Colonies. It has a drier atmosphere than England, lies further south and enjoys the more direct rays of the sun, so favourable for ripening all the higher cereals and fruits, and on the whole has a salubrious climate.

During the century since Canada proper became a British Colony, the population has increased from 65,000 to more than 3,000,000; and before another century rolls round, we may, without extravagance, expect a population of about 30,000,000 within the Dominion.

The growth of her towns and cities has been marked and cheering. In 1800 Montreal had 7,000 inhabitants; in 1865, about 120,000. In 1800 Toronto had 336 inhabitants; in 1865, over 50,000. The growth of several other places has been equally rapid. In like manner the increase, on the whole, of Canada, has been greater in proportion than in the United States, although within eighty years they have advanced from four to thirty millions.

The commerce of Canada has had a corresponding increase, from about three millions of dollars in 1800 to over one hundred millions in 1867; and the commerce for the whole Dominion now reaches one hundred and thirty millions of dollars.

Canada is superior to most of the States of the American Union in agricultural resources, and these are being rapidly developed. In the United States the growth of wheat increased 58 per cent. between

1840 and 1850; while in Canada during the same period it increased 400 per cent. And even now, though vast quantities of grain are raised in the newer Western States, and though from various causes, but especially the want of proper drainage, manuring and rotation of crops, the average yield per acre has fallen off in the older settlements; yet, in proportion to her population, Canada still surpasses the United States in agricultural products, except corn and pigs.

The assessed value of our farms is \$550,000,000, the true value being vastly greater. The land held by private parties in the Dominion, amounted in 1861 to 45,638,824 acres, of which 13,128,229 were under cultivation.

The Dominion has 859,829 tons of shipping, (1868,) worth \$33,619,157, and 69,356 sailors and fishermen, thus ranking next after Great Britain, the United States, and France, in the shipping interest. In 1860 the United States had 5,358,808 tons of commercial shipping.

Abundance of excellent fruit,—apples, pears, cherries and plums—are raised in the Dominion, and even PEACHES and GRAPES in Western Canada. Grapes succeed well all along the frontier of Western Canada, but peaches only in the South-western section, from Niagara westward.

In its natural state, Canada is covered with superb forests of oak, maple, beech, elm, hickory, cherry, chestnut, black walnut, pine, fir, tamarack, cedar, &c. The value of lumber exported from the Dominion is about \$15,000,000 yearly, and the total annual value of the lumber to the Dominion is computed at \$30,000,000.

In relation to the mineral portion of the Canadian

department of the World's Fair at Paris, 1855, the jury declared, "Of all the British Colonies, Canada is that whose exhibition is the most interesting and complete, and one may say it is superior, so far as the mineral kingdom is concerned, to all the countries that have forwarded their products." Sir Wm. Logan, in charge of the Canadian department, says, "The vast supplies of iron seemed to arrest the attention of all. The British miner, accustomed to follow into the bowels of the earth veins of one inch to one foot, containing from 30 to 40 per cent., regarded with surprise huge blocks of from one hundred to two hundred feet in thickness, and yielding 60 to 70 per cent.

The fisheries of her seaboard and inland lakes are an inexhaustible source of wealth to Canada, providing employment for thousands, and a cheap, delicious food for hundreds of thousands of her people. Canada thus possesses untold resources in her agricultural and mineral products, her lumber, and her fisheries, and these will be largely developed by an increase of population and capital.

The revenue of the Dominion is about \$16,000,000 yearly, and is rapidly on the increase. The means of communication is becoming constantly easier, by increased facilities afforded by railways and steamers.

The department in which we appear to be most deficient is woollen and cotton factories. That arises mainly from the high price of labour, which makes it difficult for Canadians to compete with British and other European manufacturers. Yet the Canadian gray cotton, made at Dundas and Thorold, successfully competes with the English-made goods. Wm. Barber, Esq.,

M. P. P., produces about one thousand yards per day, of excellent woollen goods, at Streetsville, and employs over one hundred hands. The Hespeler Mills employ still more hands, and so also does W. A. Frazer, Esq., M. P., at the Cobourg Woollen Mills. Woollen and cotton factories should be established in all our large cities, as they would afford employment to thousands of persons who would spend their earnings in the place. Many poor people find it difficult to obtain employment during the winter in the cities. If enterprising companies established such factories, steady employment might be provided for such persons, and thus at once benefit the poor, the country and themselves.

By the liberality of the Legislature of Ontario, free grants of land in the new townships are now offered to actual settlers, and we may hope to see a vast influx of immigrants from the over-crowded countries of Europe coming to share with us in the prosperity of our Dominion. This is what we need above all things—population to fill up the unoccupied regions, and thus aid in developing the resources of the country. Besides, every able-bodied settler is worth at least from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars to the country.

2nd. As to our political condition, we do not claim perfection, and freely admit that there is much room for improvement. Yet, all things considered, we may claim that no nation enjoys greater advantages for maintaining liberty and order in due harmony than the Dominion of Canada. Our laws (mostly similar to those of Great Britain) are just, and all classes are equal before the law, and generally justice is purely administered in our civil courts. Our judges are above reproach,

and happily independent both of Government control and popular prejudice. It is of the highest importance to the interests of a community, that the judges, who have so much in their power, should be independent of influences which might interfere with the due administration of justice between man and man. An elective judiciary would be a great calamity to a nation; as it has proved itself where that system has been either partially or wholly adopted. It has long been the boast of England that her judges have administered justice impartially to peer and peasant alike. This honor we may also claim for Canada.

As to all other matters, the people virtually have the control in their own hands, and can enforce the honest administration of public affairs, as their representatives govern the country.

Great Britain does not interfere with the internal government, but generously leaves it to our own Legislatures, so that, if not properly conducted, the people have themselves to blame.

Let the citizens of the Dominion, influenced by a true and christian patriotism, study what is for the interest of our country, and see that the men they send to represent them are intelligent, decided and honest men; not weaklings, with no mind of their own as to public affairs; nor yet self-seekers, who are ever ready to sell their country to secure some paltry personal advantage.

The people of Canada cherish feelings of the most devoted loyalty to the present excellent sovereign of the British Empire, and are strongly attached to the mother country and her unrivalled institutions.

3rd. We would now consider the position of our new Dominion in its educational aspects. We stand among the first of the nations in our public system of education. Few Governments have done more than our own to promote the general education of the people. This was largely owing, in Ontario, to the far-seeing patriotism of two of our statesmen—the Hon. Robert Baldwin and the Hon. Francis Hincks—who were greatly assisted and cordially sustained by that illustrious nobleman, Lord Elgin. We also owe much to our present Chief Superintendent of Education, Dr. Ryerson. Canada possesses an excellent system of public instruction. The youth of all sects, save in the Province of Quebec, are generally educated at the same public schools, and the whole system is based upon christianity, recognizing it as the religion of the country. Ministers of the Gospel, of all sects, are encouraged to visit the schools and address the children, not only on the general principles of christianity, but also on love to the Saviour and obedience to his commands. They are, however, not permitted to set forth the peculiar tenet of any sect within the public school. The system works well, and obtains the cordial approbation and hearty support of the great body of intelligent and patriotic citizens.

Every County has one or more Grammar Schools, (in 1867 there were 104 of them in Ontario,) in which Latin, Greek, French, Mathematics, &c., are taught, and which are intended not only to impart a good commercial education, but especially to prepare young men for College. Then at the head of all stand the Universities:—for Ontario, the National University of Toronto, and University College, besides several other Colleges;

McGill College and University, Montreal, for the Protestant youth of Quebec, who aspire to a higher course of study; and the Roman Catholic University of St. Mary's, Montreal, and Laval, Quebec; King's College, Fredericton, N. B.; King's College, Windsor, and Dalhousie College, Halifax, N. S. The total number of educational institutions, of all kinds, officially reported for Ontario in 1866, was 4,800, attended by 405,267 pupils, and expending \$2,050,125, or an average of \$5 per head in their support.

The total number of educational institutions reported by the Chief Superintendent of Quebec for the same year was 3,826, with 206,820 pupils, and the amount contributed for their support \$647,067, or an average of between \$3 and \$4 per head. In addition to these, there are 138 schools for Protestants, attended by 4,467 scholars.

In Nova Scotia there were 907 schools reported in 1866, with 56,017 pupils, and an expenditure of \$440,835, being an average of nearly \$8 per pupil.

New Brunswick reports 829 schools, (SUMMER TERM,) with 29,871 pupils, and \$219,949 of an expenditure, or an average of over \$7 per pupil.

If we faithfully carry out this admirable system, and wisely use these varied appliances afforded by our 10,000 Common Schools, our 11,000 teachers throughout the Dominion, our hundreds of Grammar Schools, Academies, and Ladies' Seminaries, and our noble Universities, we may hope to run the intellectual race on equal terms with the oldest and most favoured lands. True, the circumstances of our New Dominion are against the attainment of the highest culture. Few

can afford either time or money to devote their lives chiefly to literary pursuits or intellectual culture, as in some older and more favoured lands, where the wisdom and liberality of the ancients provided endowments to encourage learned leisure, and the thorough prosecution of subjects of deepest interest to mankind.

In our new country all are early pressed into some active employment, which requires the greater part, if not the whole time, and therefore little opportunity is given to prosecute those studies which bring honor to the student, while they have led to many of the greatest improvements in the ARTS AND SCIENCES, that have done much to advance the material interests, commercial prosperity and social welfare of the nations. Yet even in this matter we can look forward to great improvements in the future. Our patriots and philanthropists will come to see the manifold advantages which may be conferred by men of talent and genius having the means to devote their whole time to study, and they will endow colleges for this purpose.

We now need earnest and able christian Professors of Natural History in all our Universities, to open up that most delightful department of God's works, and point out the "FOOTPRINTS OF THE CREATOR" in the Book of Nature as well as in the Book of Divine Revelation, to exhibit the complete accordance there is between these two books—equally bearing the impress of that infinite mind from which they equally sprung—in opposition to the shallow and hasty conclusions of scepticism, and the irreverent tendencies of many in our day.

4th. We come now to consider the moral position and prospects of the Dominion. The permanent stability

of any nation depends more on the moral character of its people than upon its material resources or intellectual culture. This may be exemplified by the history of ancient nations. The ancient Empires of Assyria, Babylon, Greece and Rome, all had vast material resources, and some of them, at least, attained the highest eminence in INTELLECTUAL CULTURE; yet because of the general absence of pure morality among their people, they fell an easy prey to the assaults of poorer but less enervated races. On the moral and religious character of a people mainly depends their destiny and position among the nations of the earth. There are examples, both ancient and modern, of nations rising to a first position in influence and the respect of others by their moral virtues and self-control. No nation has had a better code of laws than ancient Rome; yet, through the prevalence of intemperance, debauchery, and disregard of the sacredness of human life, their laws became inoperative and the national spirit of patriotism declined, till at length the mighty Roman Empire fell to pieces through the corruption of the people. If we wish our Dominion to remain and confer benefits upon future ages, let our people unite to maintain TRUTH, HONESTY, JUSTICE and PURITY, and to promote temperance and every social and moral virtue. Let patriotism be fostered and encouraged as a great help towards this end. Men that love their country, and desire to maintain her honor, are not so likely to do anything that will bring disgrace or injury upon it. Patriotism, or a true, enlightened love of our Dominion and its privileges, should be encouraged in our school books, newspapers, and literary journals, and by public legislation. The people of the United States have done much to foster

this spirit in their country, and with great advantages. Their young people are taught, even in their elementary books, all about the greatness of their country, ITS EXTENT AND RESOURCES.

Not nearly so much has been done to call forth the spirit of patriotism among the youth of the Dominion. Let them be made acquainted with the greatness and glory of the British Empire, her just laws, her pure administration of justice, the strength and stability of her government, her vast resources and wealth, and that we have reason to rejoice that we form an integral part of that great Empire.

5th. We would now notice the present position and future prospects of our New Dominion in its religious aspect. This, after all, is its most important department, as it embraces within its sphere the interests of both time and eternity; and upon this more depends, with reference to the highest interests of the nation, than upon any other. The other interests are all, indeed, INTIMATELY INTERWOVEN WITH THIS. You cannot separate civil and religious liberty. If the one is lost the other will soon follow—they stand or fall together. It is of paramount importance that this principle be most sacredly maintained, and that no interference be permitted with the rights of conscience. Religion is a matter between every man's conscience and his God, and to Him only is each individual accountable for his religious opinions—except in so far as each Church or religious society, like any other society, is at liberty to remove from her membership those who cease to hold her doctrines or conform to her regulations. Every person joining a Church, virtually agrees to this stipulation,

which embodies a principle necessary to the purity of the Church, and is a privilege conferred by her Great Head. But in this there is no violation of the right of conscience.

There are probably about three thousand four hundred ministers, or religious teachers of various denominations, for the four millions of our population; and these are all placed on an equal footing before the law, with the single exception of the French Roman Catholic Church of the Province of Quebec, which has been permitted to retain the status and advantages of an Established Church.

The following table exhibits the religious statistics of the Dominion of Canada according to the last census:

	R. Catholics.	Presbyter's	Church of England.	Wesleyans & other Meth'ts.	Baptists.
Ontario	258,141	303,384	311,565	341,572	61,559
Quebec	948,253	41,735	63,487	80,668	7,751
N Brunswick	85,238	86,072	42,776	25,637	57,780
Nova Scotia	86,261	88,755	47,744	34,055	62,042
Totals	1,377,893	469,946	465,572	431,932	189,082

Lutherans, total 29,651; Congregationalists, 17,757; Miscellaneous, 76,176.—*Year Book for 1868.*

Let all those denominations live and work together in harmony, and seek to advance the cause of God and the religious instruction of the people. Let the spirit of union, which has begun to show itself, be still farther carried out. "Whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

Let the young be carefully taught the principles of our most holy religion. Let parents, pastors and Sabbath School teachers, unite in training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, early sowing the seeds of Divine truth in their hearts; teaching them the

way of salvation through faith in the crucified and risen Saviour. Let them be taught to love and serve God and keep his commandments—the highest duty and greatest happiness of man, as the redeemed and accountable creature of God. Let them be taught to love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the Queen; yea, to honor all in authority, to obey magistrates, respect their parents and all superiors, to cherish and manifest the spirit of modesty and decorum, virtue, truthfulness and integrity in all their relations and in all their dealings with their fellow men. Let them be taught to keep holy the Sabbath and reverence the sanctuary, and to seek the divine favor as their choicest heritage. In God's favor is life, and in the keeping of His commandments there is great reward. "Wisdom's ways are pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." The future welfare of our Dominion depends largely on the proper training of the rising generation. Every true patriot and christian should, therefore, endeavor to imbue the minds of the young with the principles of eternal truth, the grand elevator, civilizer, and ennobler of the human family.

Let the people send to our various Legislatures honest and able men, who will do their duty to the Dominion at large, as well as to their own constituents; true patriots, who are animated by the laudable ambition of serving their country and their generation in an honorable way.

Uphold the national school system of education, for it is the friend of light, liberty, purity, justice and progress. Countenance every effort to advance the intellectual culture of the people; for this is closely connected

with their moral elevation. Let higher schools, academies and colleges, be endowed and fostered.

Discountenance vice in all its varied forms. National sins, if unrebuked, will be required of the people; for such sins can be punished **NATIONALLY** only in this world.

Honor the Sabbath—God's day of rest from worldly labor, and of preparation for the rest of Heaven. Let the people regularly attend the Service of the Sanctuary on that day, and thus *show their subjection, not to man, but to God's Word and Will.*

Let all manifest a spirit of liberality in upholding and extending the cause of God, and especially throughout our own Dominion. Do this as you value the favor of God, and desire his blessing to rest on yourselves and your children after you. (Prov. iii, 9-10; Mal. iii, 8-12; 1 Cor., ix, 14; Heb. xiii, 16-17.)

It will be happy for our land when, to a far greater extent than in the past, "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**" shall be inscribed upon the wealth of the country, and when our people generally seek to honor God with "the first fruits" of all their increase, and give to the Lord in proportion to their means. This is the best way to exalt our nation to a place of power, wealth and influence, and to procure for us the respect of other nations. As long as Israel of old faithfully served the Lord, they prospered and were honored by every land; God made them to ride upon the high places of the earth. But when they set at naught His laws, and lightly esteemed the Rock of their Salvation, He made their power decline, cast them down from their excellency, and delivered them into the hands of their enemies. It will be so with Canada

if she despise that righteousness which exalteth a nation. (Deut. xxviii; Ezek. xxxiv, 23-27.) "Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."

Such, then, are the position and prospects of Canada; and such are the duties, civil, social and religious, that are incumbent on her people if they would have their country under the protecting shield and enriching blessing of the Governor among the nations. It is to be hoped that many British noblemen and gentlemen will follow the example of the Prince of Wales, and instead of always going to the Continent of Europe, will secure a pleasing variety by making a tour of these rising colonies which, while they are proud of their connection with Old England, add very much to her prestige and glory as well as to her real strength and power; and whose sons would heartily rally round the venerable mother-land were she assailed by any foe. Let the noble mother and her numerous daughters draw closer the ties of affection and interest; and then, walking hand in hand, they may exhibit before the world the important principle that the highest liberty is consistent with the greatest justice and moderation, progress and prosperity.

THE DOMINION OF THE WEST.

Tell me, stranger, how to name thee--What the land that gave thee
birth—

Was its place in song or story? Ranks it with the great on earth?
Has thy standard mark or symbol? Can it shelter those it rules?
Bears it blazon, proud and hoary, azure, white, or fiery gules?

I claim no record in the past—

Mine the future's mystic page—

There my empire looms more vast

Than king or Cæsar heritage.

Born in peace serene and tranquil,

I can show no bloody claim;

But I have a roll ancestral,

Ranking next to none in fame.

Exists the land or rolls the sea,

Where England's banner has not waved,

Unfurled for death or honor's fee,

Whose valor oft its folds have saved?

On shot-swept deck and battle plain,

The Scott and Erin's sons have stood,

And borne the standard free from stain,

Or sank beneath it steeped in blood.

And to these, an oft-sung glory,

I can set a gem as bright;

To the Lily's lofty story

I have ancient, lineal right.

England, Scotland, Ireland, Gaul,

Land of races great and regal;

Each to me has yielded all,

In my veins their tributes mingle.

What did the sire, the son can do,
Dare foe attempt to forge a chain ;
Death may his free-born limbs subdue—
The fetters can but deck the slain.
From icy Gaspé to the sea,
Where sinks the sun at eve to rest,
Lake, river, plain, belongs to me,
The young "Dominion of the West."

W. B.

Toronto, Nov. 23, 1867.

